

What is claimed is:

1           1. A mail system comprising:  
2           a mail source from which an e-mail is sent;  
3           one or more destinations which receive the e-mail from  
4           said mail source at their respective mail addresses; and  
5           a mail address manager managing the respective mail  
6           addresses of said destinations, said mail address manager being  
7           operative, in response to updating of the mail address of at  
8           least one destination, to register a new destination mail  
9           address in correlation with such old destination mail address.

1           2. A mail system according to claim 1, wherein said  
2           mail address manager is a mail server which receives an e-mail  
3           from said mail source and sends the last-named e-mail to at  
4           least one destination mail address.

1           3. A mail system according to claim 2, wherein said  
2           mail address manager is a plurality of mail servers which manage  
3           the mail addresses of two or more destinations separately.

1           4. A mail system according to claim 1, further  
2           comprising a mail sending section sending a particular e-mail,  
3           which is addressed to said old destination mail address, to  
4           said new destination mail address.

1           5. A mail system according to claim 4, further

2 comprising a notifying section notifying said mail source that  
3 the mail address of at least one destination has been updated.

1 6. A mail system according to claim 5, further  
2 comprising a mail address rewriting section rewriting the mail  
3 address of at least one destination in an e-mail address book  
4 when said mail source is notified by said notifying section  
5 that the mail address of said at least one destination has  
6 been updated.

1 7. A mail system according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising a mail storing section temporarily storing a  
3 particular e-mail, which is addressed to said old destination  
4 mail address, until said new destination mail address is  
5 registered by said mail address manager.

1 8. A mail system according to claim 1, wherein:  
2 said mail address manager registers the mail addresses  
3 of said destinations and attribute information respectively  
4 unique to said destinations in correlation with each other;  
5 and

6 when sending an e-mail to the mail address of a particular  
7 destination, said mail source inputs said attribute  
8 information unique to said particular destination for  
9 substitution for the mail address of said particular  
10 destination so that the last-named e-mail is sent to said  
11 particular destination corresponding to said input attribute

12 information.

1 9. A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail source  
2 to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses,  
3 comprising:

4 a system environment storage section storing  
5 information about a system environment of the individual  
6 destination;

7 a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which  
8 is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such  
9 a form receivable by the destination based on said system  
10 environment information of the last-named destination which  
11 information is stored in said system environment storage  
12 section; and

13 a mail sending section sending the processed e-mail to  
14 the destination.

1 10. A mail system according to claim 9, wherein said  
2 mail processing section compresses said e-mail data into such  
3 a size receivable by the destination.

1 11. A mail system according to claim 9, wherein said  
2 mail processing section divides said e-mail data into a  
3 plurality of pieces of e-mail data, each piece of e-mail data  
4 having such a size receivable by the destination.

1 12. A mail system according to claim 9, wherein said

2 mail processing section ciphers said e-mail data into such  
3 a form decipherable by the destination.

1 13. A mail system according to claim 9, wherein if said  
2 e-mail data sent from the mail source is a compressed form,  
3 said mail processing section expands such compressed data to  
4 the original data size.

1 14. A mail system according to claim 9, wherein if said  
2 e-mail data sent from the mail source is in the form of separate  
3 pieces of data, said mail processing section combines the  
4 separate pieces of data one with another.

1 15. A mail system according to claim 9, wherein if said  
2 e-mail data sent from the mail source is a ciphered form, said  
3 mail processing section deciphers said ciphered data.

1 16. A mail system for sending an e-mail from a mail  
2 source to one or more destinations at their respective mail  
3 addresses, comprising:

4 an address list in which the destination mail addresses  
5 are registered; and

6 a mail address rewriting section, operative upon receipt  
7 of a notice that the mail address of at least one destination  
8 has been updated, rewriting such old destination mail address,  
9 which is registered in said address list, into a new destination  
10 mail address.

1 17. A mail system according to claim 16, further  
2 comprising a registration time information recording section  
3 recording registration time information, which specifies a  
4 time when a particular destination mail address is registered,  
5 and the last-named destination mail address in correlation  
6 with each other, said mail address rewriting section being  
7 operative, upon receipt of the notice that the destination  
8 mail address list has been updated, to consult with said  
9 registration time information of said new destination mail  
10 address and rewrites said old destination mail address into  
11 said new destination mail address in accordance with said  
12 registration time information.

1 18. A mail system according to claim 16, further  
2 comprising a mail address rewrite instructing section  
3 instructing an e-mail address rewrite process, said mail  
4 address rewriting section being responsive to the instruction  
5 of said mail address rewrite instructing section to perform  
6 an e-mail address rewrite process.

1 19. An apparatus for sending e-mail, which is received  
2 from a mail source, to one or more destinations at their  
3 respective mail addresses, comprising:

4 a mail address manager managing the mail addresses of  
5 the destinations, said mail address manager being operative,  
6 in response to updating of the mail address of at least one

7 destination, to register a new destination mail address in  
8 correlation with such old destination mail address; and  
9 a mail sending section, responsive to receipt of an  
10 e-mail addressed to said old destination mail address,  
11 sending the last-named e-mail to said new mail address.

1 20. An apparatus for sending an e-mail, which is  
2 received from a mail source, to one or more destinations at  
3 their respective mail addresses, comprising:

4 a system environment storage section storing  
5 information about a system environment of the individual  
6 destination; and

7 a mail processing section processing e-mail data, which  
8 is contained in the e-mail from the mail source, into such  
9 a form receivable by the destination based on said system  
10 environment information of the last-named destination which  
11 information is stored in said system environment storage  
12 section.

1 21. A method of sending an e-mail from a mail source  
2 to one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses,  
3 comprising:

4 registering, when the mail address of a particular  
5 destination has been updated, such old mail address of the  
6 particular destination and a new destination mail address in  
7 correlation with each other; and

8 sending an e-mail, which is addressed to said old

9 destination mail address, to said new destination mail address  
10 if the last-named e-mail is addressed to said old destination  
11 mail address.

1 22. A method of sending e-mail from a mail source to  
2 one or more destinations at their respective mail addresses,  
3 comprising the steps of:

4 retaining system environment information about a system  
5 environment of the individual destination;

6 processing e-mail data, which is contained in an e-mail  
7 sent out from the mail source, into such a form receivable  
8 by the individual destination based on said system environment  
9 information; and

10 sending the e-mail having the processed e-mail data to  
11 the individual destination.

1 23. A computer-readable recording medium in which a  
2 mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being  
3 adapted to render a computer to function as the following:

4 a mail address manager for managing mail addresses of  
5 destinations and registering, when the mail address of a  
6 particular destination has been updated, such old mail address  
7 of the particular destination and a new mail address in  
8 correlation with each other; and

9 a mail sending section for sending an e-mail, which is  
10 addressed to said old mail address, to said particular  
11 destination at said new mail address.

1           24. A computer-readable recording medium according to  
2 claim 23, wherein said mail system program renders the computer  
3 to function further as the following:

4           a registration time information recording section which  
5 records registration time information, which specifies a time  
6 when a mail address of a destination has been entered in a  
7 mail address list, and the last-named mail address in  
8 correlation with each other; and

9           a mail address rewriting section which consults with  
10 said registration time information upon receipt of a notice  
11 that the mail address of said particular destination has been  
12 updated, and rewriting the last-named mail address in said  
13 mail address list in accordance with said registration time  
14 information.

1           25. A computer-readable recording medium according to  
2 claim 23, wherein said mail system program renders the computer  
3 to function further as the following:

4           a mail address rewriting section which rewrites the mail  
5 address of said particular destination in said mail address;  
6 and

7           a mail address rewrite instructing section which gives  
8 an instruction to said mail address rewriting section to  
9 rewrite said mail address list in accordance with said  
10 instruction of said mail rewrite instructing section.



1           26. A computer-readable recording medium in which a  
2 mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being  
3 adapted to render a computer to function as the following:

4           a mail processing section which processes e-mail data,  
5 which is contained in an e-mail sent out from a mail source  
6 and addressed to a particular destination at a mail address  
7 thereof, into such a form receivable by said particular  
8 destination based on a system environment of said particular  
9 destination; and

10           a mail sending section which sends the last-named e-mail,  
11 addressed to said particular destination and having the  
12 processed e-mail data, to said particular destination.

1           27. A computer-readable recording medium in which a  
2 mail system program is recorded, said mail system program being  
3 adapted to render a computer to function as the following:

4           a mail address list in which a mail address or addresses  
5 of one or more destinations are registered or to be registered;  
6 and

7           a mail address rewriting section which rewrites, upon  
8 receipt of a notice that an mail address of a particular  
9 destination registered in said mail address list has been  
10 updated, the last-named mail address of said particular  
11 destination into a new mail address.